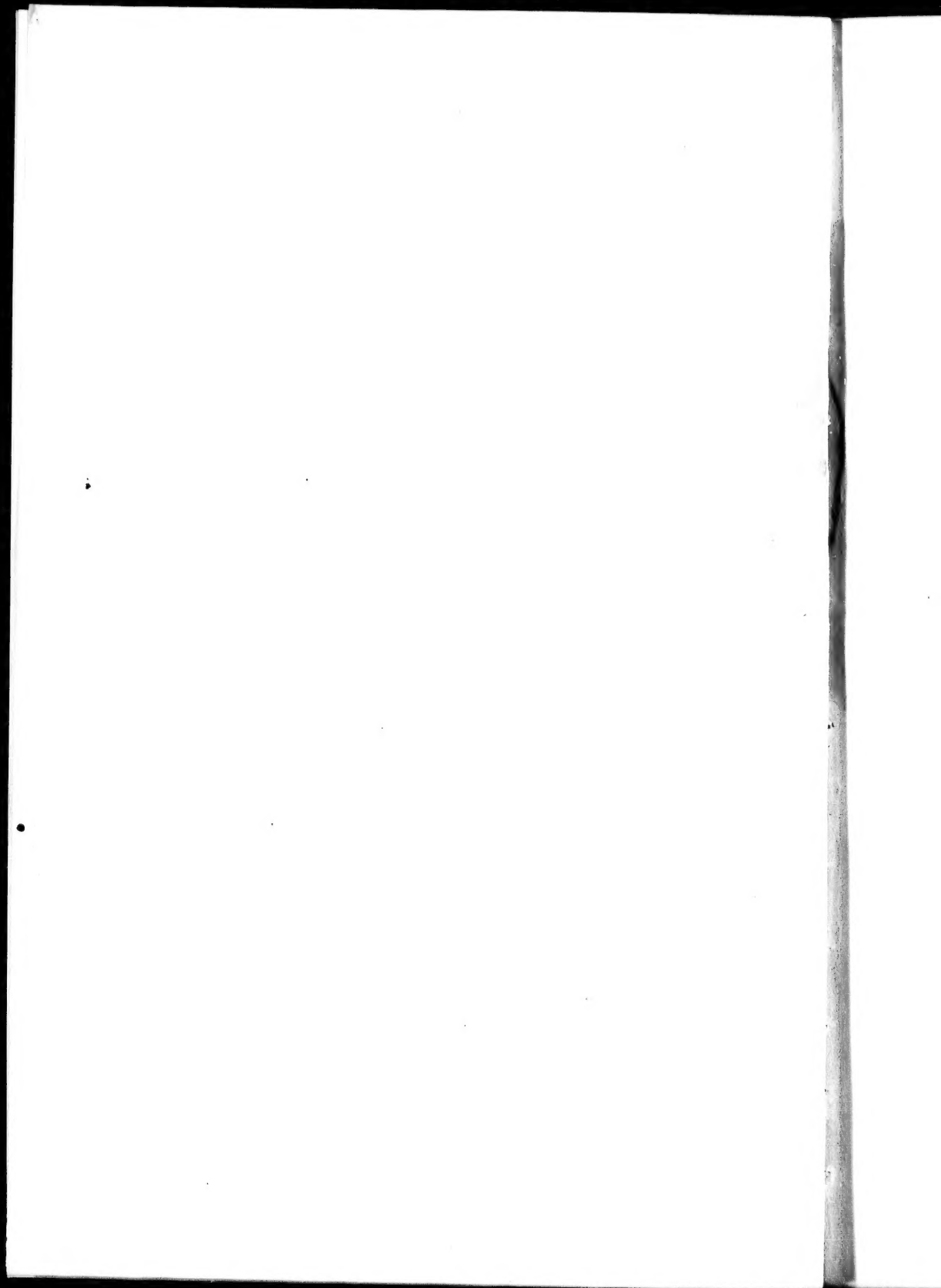




SUGGESTIONS
ON THE
PROPRIETY AND PRACTICABILITY OF
SECURING COLONIZATION
THROUGH THE MEANS OF ADOPTION OF THE
ALLOTMENT SYSTEM.

BY AN ACTUAL SETTLER.

HOPEFIELD, 1865.

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SUGGESTIONS
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The Report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands recently laid before Parliament, for the half year ending thirtieth of June, 1864, states in reference to the progress of settlement on the various Colonization roads in both sections of the Province, which have been laid out and opened for the reception of settlers on free grant lots along their lines—those grants consisting of each one hundred acres, fronting upon the road, and available by any male person of 18 years of age or over—that upon the Addington, no new locations had been taken up, and only three lots, which had been previously located, were again occupied. On the Hastings road and Frontenac road no lots had been located; while on the Burleigh road forty-three lots had been granted. On the Muskoka two new lots had been settled upon, and thirteen re-locations had been made. On the Opeongo five new locations and three re-locations had taken place; and on the Peterson road fifty new locations and twelve re-locations had been applied for, making a total of one hundred new locations and thirty-one

re-locations upon the entire right Free Grant roads in Upper Canada. It will be perceived that almost a third of the entire are re-located lots, taken up, no doubt, by the temptation offered by the improvements made by the vacating settler. The roads in Lower Canada even show more unfavourably, being only twenty-six locatees upon the five roads in that section of the Province. This statement most assuredly is not very cheering, particularly when it is borne in mind that a settlement in the woods is entered upon previous to the last of June; no crop being sown subsequently, therefore the above statement may be taken as embracing a twelvemonth. The very remarkable decrease in the emigration to Canada seems to have been proportionate in a reverse ratio as our Government were making efforts to secure it; no doubt various causes contribute to this result, but that there is something manifestly wrong somewhere, requiring alteration and improvement, is self-evident. The sources from which it was naturally anticipated emigration would flow upon our shores, has not dried up; on the contrary a steadily increasing stream has flowed in upon the wharves of our rival neighbours; the inducements we have held out, or the system adopted have proved (or both combined) inadequate or unavailing. No doubt the undue stimulus given to emigration in 1857, '58, when the Grand Trunk was opened, was one of very injurious effect by condensing into those years the emigration which should legitimately have been spread over many, there having arrived at the port of Quebec during that year 32,097 persons: to effect this, agents were appointed through the various counties of England and Ireland chiefly, who, not confining themselves to correctly setting forth the advantages which Canada offered, obtained a temporary success by over-puffing, which, like all other matters of a similar sort, led to a subsequent reaction by the disappointment it created, and which those who felt themselves deceived failed

not to make known to their friends and relatives at home; and those reports being made under the keen, painful feelings engendered by the non-realization of the too high expectations they were induced to form, prevented, doubtless, very many from following, who otherwise would have done so. More recently, the great inducements offered by the American authorities for enlistment, and the nominal high prices paid for labour, cheap passages to New York, and the absence of all public works in the Province, have proved too tempting for that class of emigrants who fill the ranks of the labouring population. How is a check to be placed upon the continuance of this state of things? Firstly, I say by the inducement of self-interest; and secondly, by placing annually such a number of judiciously chosen emigrants in such a position on their arrival as to enable them afterwards, by the exertion of their muscle and sinew, to help themselves; whereby, by their example, others may be taught to come and do likewise. In the year 1857, Mr. Vankoughnet, then Minister of Agriculture, in his report to the Government, makes use of the following language: "Experience now teaches that newly arrived emigrants, unaccustomed to the use of the axe, and alike ignorant of the effects of our climate and the rotation of crops, have but little chance of immediate success in settling upon wild lands *during the first year or so*, unless possessed of sufficient capital to enable them to employ labourers, or pay for the experience which others can furnish. The newly arrived emigrant, with but little means, should be warned of the difficulties in the way of his success, and should rather be encouraged to hire out with the farmers of the country for a season or so, than to undertake farming himself without experience." But permit me to ask, who is willing to employ the services of a newly arrived emigrant, void of all knowledge necessary in this country, and burthened with the maintenance of a wife and numerous family; and where is the

home where he can leave his family while he places himself upon an equal footing with his unmarried rival in the labour market? This is the point from which I take my start—and the great want of a shelter which the emigrant can call his home, will be, by the adoption of the plan I advocate, supplied; and he at once placed in a position where his labour can be made available, either for himself or others.

Emigration from Ireland, Germany, and Poland is almost exclusively confined to the labouring classes, and those who have been holders of the very smallest patches of land, and, therefore, accustomed to the most rigid economy in its tillage. And it is a well established fact, that so strong is the tenacity of the Irish peasant in particular to the home of his ancestors, that if he be the owner of, be it ever so small, a patch of his native soil, he will cling to it, aye, long after he sees it must eventually pass from his hands; and at last, comparatively a pauper, he is compelled to leave the land of his birth a broken down, dispirited man; and, perchance, having a large family depending upon him for support, seek in a distant land the subsistence denied him at home, where, from the full results of his labour, he fails to secure any interest in the land he tills, and his living but a scanty pittance, at best insufficient and unsuitable to exert even the strength he hesitates to expend upon so precarious a holding, well knowing that all his perseverance, frugality and industry can never obtain for his children a freehold; and this argument will hold good to England, Scotland, Germany, &c. The fact being, they have not, in those countries, a superabundance of what we possess, viz.: land, and they have in excess what in this country we require, viz.: labour. To show how this excess of labour may gradually be drawn to our Colonization roads by the action of self-interest is my desire; and although the greater part of the following pages appeared as letters in the *Kingston British Whig* last year, yet as I paid last

winter (1864) a visit to the "Old Country," and became, from information derived from authentic sources, and observation, satisfied of not only the practicability but utility and general advantage to be found from the adoption of the plan I advocate, that I am induced to place it once more in a condensed form before those interested in our general advancement and prosperity. That self-interest to be obtained by the inducement offered the occupier or locatee of becoming the owner of a sufficiency of land in fee simple by the outlay of his own exertion alone, sufficient to supply all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. It is a universally well known fact that the most successful farmer is not the man who cultivates the greatest number of acres, and it is as equally well known that where men labour for themselves they are energetic, prosperous and contented, rendering a cheerful obedience to law and order, and rapidly rise themselves in the scale of society. A great error exists in granting to the newly-arrived emigrant a larger quantity of land as a bribe to emigration than will be within his means for many years to come to bring under subjection. When we undertake more than we have the necessary capital to carry out, we are induced to extend our operations, and leave neglected the means which would enrich and make a small holding profitable, with the same outlay and labour expended thereon: and it is an undeniable fact that the spirit of emulation and improvement is more general where holdings are small and closely connected than where extensive. At the commencement of a scheme for extensive colonization by allotment, care should first be taken that the class of emigrants are such as will warrant the successful result of the action with some degree of certainty, not selecting them from the most destitute, both in physical and worldly means; and, secondly, that the extent of the allotment assigned will be just sufficient to yield the necessities of life by good manage-

ment, and be commensurate with the quantity of labour the settler's family can yield, and the means at his disposal. In 1818 the Dutch Government commenced the system of allotment by giving seven acres of inferior land to each family, the cost of settling which amounted to \$88.50 per family. After deducting the maintenance of the family, superintendent's salary, and \$2.40 per acre for rent, we find that by manual labour alone a profit of \$32.50 per lot was obtained annually. The English Government in 1825 sent out to this country 2,000 persons, supplying them with every necessary, and giving them a free grant of an hundred acres, at a cost of £21 5s. per head; those were chosen from the most destitute of the pauper population of Ireland, and placed under the supervision of persons as incapable of initiating them into the habits and labour necessary to insure success in this country, as those under them were unable, from inability and former avocations, to perform them. What was the result? What otherwise could it be? Began erroneously, and carried on incorrectly, it ended in utter failure. The French and Italian Governments subsequently adopted the plan, but more upon the basis of cottage gardening; and the British Government have more recently assisted the enterprise of private individuals on a similar plan, which has been attended with the very best results. In France the farms generally do not comprise more than from fifteen to twenty-five acres, and a considerable degree of comfort has been diffused amidst the mass of the people thereby.

Having thus briefly touched upon the action of Governments not possessing a thousandth part the field for operations which ours of Canada does, I will give a few suggestions as to the plan I would adopt. Were the Government to appoint some practical, experienced business man to make an inspection on each of the colonization roads now opened for settlement, and select one or more sites for

village purposes at such distances and in such locality as the geography of the surrounding country, the nature of the soil, the supply of water, the description of the timber for building, fencing, fuel, &c., and its general adaptability, would recommend. The location chosen, lay it out in ten acre lots, with a frontage of three-fourths of an acre for half an acre in depth, when the lot would assume the breadth of an acre for the balance of ten acres in depth, thus leaving a building lot of half an acre between every two allotments for mechanics, &c. On each of these settlements clear and prepare an acre (or more) of land ready for crop, and erect thereon a habitable log dwelling, 20 x 24 feet, capable of division for cleanliness and comfort, the cost of which need not exceed \$20 each. Twenty of these, having each a family of five persons, would be a sufficiency in each chosen locality to commence with. This little colony of an hundred souls, placed under the superintendence of an overseer (not an agent), a practical man, whose domicile will be within the limits of the settlement, and whose salary will be in proportion to the number of families forming it, in no case exceeding \$15 per family, thus identifying his emoluments with the growth of the settlement under his charge, and thereby securing his interest directly therein, he being subject to such instructions as the Bureau of Agriculture from time to time issued for his guidance. In return for the home thus afforded the emigrant, he should pay one day's labour each week at such time, within the limits of the settlement, as the superintendent might require the labour, to be expended in clearing the building lots between the allotments, church and school lots, fencing and preparing other lots for the reception of fresh arrivals, the remaining days each week to be at his own disposal, either to work for himself or on the holdings of old established settlers in the vicinity, plenty of which can generally be obtained at wages varying from two shillings to

half a dollar per diem and board, payable in such produce at current prices as the newly arrived settler must of necessity require for the support of his family. The occupant of an allotment being at liberty to throw up the occupancy of his holding at any time he deems it his interest to do so, by giving to the superintendent one month's notice of his intention, and paying up any arrears of labour he may be owing, for either rent or seed advanced to him, thus giving the superintendent an opportunity of acquainting the Department with any vacancies as they might occur, and the settler at any time eligible to locate himself on a free grant beyond the precincts of the settlement or on purchasable land, only paying as rent for his allotment one day per week of his own labour during his occupancy thereof; also to be at liberty to remain and become the proprietor of his allotment, with all the improvements thereon, after the expiration of three years, for the sum of \$50, being less than the actual expense of settling him thereon, this sum to be paid in yearly instalments. The cost of settling each family would stand thus:—

To clearing one acre land.....	\$16 00
“ dwelling, with door, windows, flooring and roofing..	30 00
“ superintendent's commission.....	15 00
Total.....	\$61 00

As I maintain the plan can be (if judiciously carried out) made not only self-supporting, but profitable, after paying the above sum and the value of the land, viz., seventy cents per acre, I will give Dr. and Cr., for twenty families, computing the expense and receipts for three years:—

Dr.

To value of 200 acres wild land at 70c. per acre....	\$ 140 00
“ clearing 20 acres of land at \$16 per acre.....	320 00
“ erecting 20 dwellings at 30 each.....	600 00
“ superintendent's salary, 3 years at \$15 per family.	900 00
Total.....	\$1,960 00

C.R.

By sale of 20 allotments at the expiration of three years at \$50 per lot	\$1,000 00	
" sale of 20 cleared building lots, con- taining one acre each, \$40 per lot...	800 00	
" 3,120 days labour at 50c. per diem..	1,560 00	\$3,360 00
	<u>\$3,360 00</u>	<u>\$1,400 00</u>
Deduct for loss of time when lots may be untenanted.	400 00	
Profit.....		<u>\$1,000 00</u>

This, at first sight, would yield but an average profit of \$50.00 per lot : but this is not all ; during the first year's occupancy there would be expended 1,000 days' labour, which, allowing 122 days work necessary to prepare an allotment, would give rather over eight additional for occupancy the second year, and those with the twenty previously located would clear, say eleven, and those thirty-nine would prepare sixteen, so that at the expiration of the three years the colony would consist of fifty-five allotment habitations, which, with the twenty building lots, would accommodate a population, on an average, of four hundred souls. I have made this calculation allowing a wide margin for contingencies, but sufficiently close for working purposes ; and the first cost of the land at 70 cents per acre should perhaps be omitted, as no doubt a considerable proportion would, ere the expiration of the third year, have availed themselves of their privilege, and the knowledge they had acquired, to settle upon either free grants or purchasable land from the Crown, in some of the adjoining townships, leaving their allotments improved in proportion to their length of residence thereon. A profit therefore of \$87.50 would be obtained from each allotment, which, although not as high as that obtained by the Dutch Government, is sufficiently encouraging. With the accumulation of funds, schools, churches, &c., could be erected even as a private enterprise. This plan might be profitably adopted by those having the

means and philanthropy to carry it out. To any inclined to act upon it, the Government should yield all the facilities within their power.

In advocating the adoption of this system of Colonization by allotment "in this part of Canada," I am aware I shall be met by the assertion that in a country possessing an almost unlimited extent of territory, land is of so little consequence that the granting of a large area of it as an inducement to the emigrant to settle upon it, is the best mode that can be adopted to secure that object; also that ten or twenty acres are entirely insufficient for the support of the labouring man's family, the fallacy of which I will endeavour to shew briefly and conclusively to those devoid of prejudice and open to conviction. I would refer again to the report of the Commissioner, and ask why is it that out of one hundred locations in Western Canada during the past year on free grant roads one third have been abandoned by the original locatees thereon? Each of those lots contained one hundred acres and a frontage on the main road; therefore it was not from the quantity being too small nor the difficulty of access thereto that they did so. Those vacating such lots have no doubt left sadder and wiser men, but discontented and dissatisfied at having in their ignorance been induced by the name of an hundred acres a free gift, to settle themselves upon it, after spending perchance years of toil and privation, they have risen out of it to sow wherever they hereafter travel broadcast the seeds of their bitter experience, thereby deterring others from locating upon lots offering even superior advantages to the settler. The offer of an hundred acres of land to an emigrant is rather a difficulty in his way. On his arrival he has not even the knowledge necessary to set about the building of a shanty in the woods to shelter himself and family; and had he the knowledge he is lacking the means, which even if he had, he would not know how to advanta-

geously lay out. If thrifty and industrious, he will, at the expiration of three years, be able to become the proprietor of his allotment; he will have learned the labour necessary for bush farming, and can settle confidently upon an hundred acre lot by the time he has learned to clear and cultivate it, retaining or disposing of his allotment as best suits him; and were he on his advent the possessor of five hundred acres, he could not, nor would not have over (if as much) the ten acres cleared. As regards ten acres being insufficient to produce necessaries for the maintenance of a working man's family combined with the work he occasionally obtains from the lumberer or his neighbours, no person knowing any thing of country life will assert. It will not admit of argument that small farms with manual labour and careful tillage, yield a much more abundant return than those which are too large to cultivate so attentively. The great want the emigrant labours under on his arrival on our shores is a fixed plan or prospect before him. Were the allotment system adopted, such would not be the case, as he would place himself at once in the hands of the emigration authorities, to be by them forwarded to such locations as were prepared to receive them, on his arrival; and on his voyage he would not be diverted from its execution, or drawn aside from its fulfilment by his fellow passengers, or what is worse by interested persons at Quebec or Montreal; too many do so, and at length find themselves wanderers in our streets, unable to obtain employment at any rate of wages, and labouring under the pressure of a scarcity, if not total deficiency of both money and provisions. Were he aware before his departure from his native land that a home anywhere awaited himself and family, the entire phase of his thoughts would be changed and his doubts removed; but wherever his goal may be (and it cannot be too frequently and impressively forced upon his mind), let no cajolery or persuasion with the delusive

hope of immediate or remunerative employment cause the emigrant to make any delay at the port of disembarkation, or loiter by the way to his destination. The intending emigrant, naturally anxious to better his condition, looks forward to the home of his future, for the chief object of his ambition, which is denied him at home, be his exertions ever so strenuous, viz., independence, and here it can be obtained. This province contains a farming population—owners of the soil upon which they live—of some two hundred and fifty thousand, and out of our entire population, there are not one hundred thousand labourers. This fact alone is sufficient to convince any thinking emigrant that any industrious man who is hard pressed at home will undoubtedly be a gainer by emigrating. This is not however a “Canaan”; most emphatically no, it is by the sweat of his brow he must here depend for his livelihood; at the same time he has the sure and certain prospect, if sober, industrious and persevering, of raising himself in society, and obtaining the much longed for desire of leaving his children a property they can call their own. And no man with moderate ideas, possessed of these qualities, need be afraid of the result, what the occupant of an allotment will raise from the cultivation thereof, with what he earns from the lumberer or the older established settlers will enable him to maintain his family independently (in comparison with his former position), and each succeeding season will see it augmented; when labouring for his neighbour, he is but giving it in exchange for the produce of the cultivated lands of that neighbour who has a surplus of the commodities the more recently arrived settler of necessity requires, thus adding to the comforts of himself and family, and contributing to the advancement of his employer, whilst the very expectation of future independence will stimulate him to exertions he previously knew not he possessed; and our virgin soil, abundant in fertility, will yield to him, by the little labour required to be bestowed

upon it, a plentiful harvest ; and as this feeling of independence gradually but firmly roots itself in his mind, as the comforts of life gather around him, he forgets the cringing servility of the land he left, and enjoys, in its stead, a sturdy and manly spirit of freedom and equality.

In adopting the allotment system, the pauper emigrant should not be encouraged to emigrate ; he not only should possess enough to pay his passage and bring him to the home prepared for him, but at least a sufficiency for a month's support, and seed for the acre of land which awaits his labour. This time is necessary for the settlement of his family and the restoration of his health, which a long voyage, in many instances under the influence of an insufficiency of nourishment, foul air, bad water, and sea sickness combined, has been enough to impair ; but whilst regaining strength he can plant his potatoes and sow his garden vegetables, the necessary after attention to which his wife and children can bestow. One of the best writers on English husbandry in connection with the allotment system and cottage gardening and farms, says, " No man can object to the formation of such colonies as the means of establishing numerous labouring families in comfortable independence ; and we could not here object to the extension of such a system, so long as land could be found for the purpose, capable of producing more food than is consumed by the holder during the period of cultivation." Canada is just in this position ; she has the land to dispose of having an almost boundless extent of acreage lying scattered all over the Province capable of profitable cultivation for agricultural and grazing purposes, and the support of an ever increasing hardy, industrious, thriving population. As it would require 120 days' labour of an experienced hand to prepare an acre of land, and make the dwelling habitable for the reception of the settler and his family, the work being performed ready to his hand gives him a great start a year's

advance—as, were he to depend upon doing it himself after his arrival, the time for putting in any crop would have passed away. To have a home and this acre of cleared land is therefore the foundation of his future prosperity. There is, however, one thing the new settler has to overcome, no matter from whence he comes, namely, old prejudices, the attachment thereto being very frequently more injurious to his advancement than either want of capital or knowledge. On the adoption of the allotment system, however, the spade, hoe and rake are almost the only implements of husbandry he requires for the tillage of the soil, and the chief of those he has been accustomed to, from his infancy upwards. The spade was originally the chief instrument of agriculture, and to this day is the most efficient and effective, and is the best adapted to small holdings. By merely mixing and deepening the soil, the cottager can with his spade alone cultivate lands which defy the subsoil plough; and this brings me to speak of the general description of the soil “in this part of Canada,” and almost invariably it is the same upon all the colonization roads, viz., a sandy loam resting upon a subsoil of compact sandy gravel, than which none is better adapted for the cultivation of all cereals, less wheat alone, which it yields well, however, for one or two years in succession, but is not sufficiently heavy to produce an indefinite number of crops to suit the farming ideas of some would-be agriculturist, without the application of a rotation system of manuring; neither is it sufficiently heavy to produce the broad “Windsor” bean to perfection; but for barley, rye, oats, pease, and all tuber and root crops, as also for the cultivation of clovers and perennial pasturage, it has no superior. Indian corn, when properly attended to and planted in season, yields an abundant harvest. It is sufficiently cohesive in the parts composing it, and has just enough tendency to gravel to denote a sharpness in it, to justly receive the appellation of a

warm kindly soil of deserved estimation, and is easily tilled with little labour, as it offers but trifling resistance to external pressure. The surface soil varies in depth from six inches to two feet, and, resting upon a subsoil neither too retentive nor too porous for a cold, moist country, it is most admirably adapted for grazing, breeding, and dairy purposes, whilst it brings early to maturity the plants sown upon its surface ; and hence the luxuriance of the underbrush, plants and weeds, and the description thereof, growing upon the unreclaimed land, is a more certain criterion of the quality of the soil than the description of trees by which it is timbered—belts of heavy hardwood frequently alternating with pine without any perceptible change in the class or composition of it. The land is what is designated rolling or undulating, with innumerable streamlets and brooks of the most excellent water, rippling or gliding silently through the valleys, which generally contain a large amount of alluvial deposits, and only require drainage to render them rich in the extreme. Were the Government to adopt the principle I advocate, and correctly carry it out, no shadow of a doubt would darken its beneficial working. Forcing settlement, by the indiscriminate issue of free grant lots, in the pine timber lands is “an undue encouragement” and an “ill-judged course,” but there really exists no necessity whatever for this being done, for this reason: Were those alternating intervals of hardwood land which abound throughout the pine country—and which are admitted to contain in this section alone over 50,000 acres of very superior well-watered hardwood land, of a valuable and estimable description—chosen as the first fields of operation for actual settlement upon the plan I have proposed, a greater number would be located on a less area (and in this lies the benefit of proximity of neighbours for mutual assistance and exchange of labour, which in many of the operations attending the clearing of land becomes absolutely

compulsory), each family not possessing the necessary requisite help within themselves; and, as I previously observed, the spirit of emulation is much and beneficially greater where holdings are small; a focus would here be established from which in a few years would radiate more extensive possessions. Those belts of hardwood are dotted over the map everywhere, and ere those would be brought under cultivation, the lumberer would have cleared from the adjoining pine lands all that would be available or convertible into merchantable timber. By the adoption of this plan the lumberer would be benefitted by as much as the supplies he requires would be obtainable at nearer points to the extent raised off land, for which, if within his limits, he pays license, yet from which he cannot now or hereafter, under any other system, derive any benefit whatever. I have said no soil is better adapted to the raising of root crops than those through which the colonization roads invariably run. Potatoes, carrots, turnips, and clover are indispensable to the maintenance of the settler, his cattle, pigs and poultry, and those are the crops above all others most suitable to the soil. Clover and turnips, it has been conceded, "are the two main pillars of British husbandry, that they contribute more to increase and preserve the fertility of the soil than any other crop." By their cultivation, the small farmer is enabled to support, during our inclement winters and long spring months, a much larger amount of live stock than he otherwise could attempt to do—a beast for every three acres not being over the general average on those farms in France and Flanders on which spade husbandry is adopted. By mixing chopped turnips, carrots or potatoes, partially boiled, with rye, barley or pease meal, (the cereals for which the soil is so peculiarly adapted,) and giving a couple of pails per day to each cow, to which some cut straw may be advantageously added, a beast may be by the cottage farmer readily kept for each three acres culti-

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vated, or even a greater proportion, as during the growing season the cattle obtain for themselves in the woods a living on which they rapidly fatten; and which, from its mixed character, is highly conducive to their health and vigour, being well housed in winter (a necessary adjunct too much neglected on large holdings), and which the cottage farmer can attend to without the assistance of expensive hired labour, his stock being at all times in prime condition. Owing to the unavoidable presence of stumps for the first few years, around which the grain cannot be covered correctly otherwise than by hand hoeing, a certain and not inconsiderable loss on large holdings is necessarily sustained, be it performed ever so carefully. The loss is not alone that of seed, but the heaviest yield and best grain is obtained around the base of each stump, as there the greatest quantity of decayed vegetable matter has accumulated. From the very trifling resistance offered to external pressure by a sandy loam, a great amount of labour can be performed with but little fatigue, by the spade or hoe, even in the hands of children; and by their judicious use no spot, unless what is absolutely covered by the stump, need be left uncultivated. This cannot be the case under any other system of tillage. By the use of the spade the land becomes completely trenched, and the immediate good effect of keeping the soil dry is at once perceptible and considerable: the deep digging and abundant manuring which the small farmer, under this system, is enabled to give, will soon convert an inferior soil into a very productive one, but would, in a very few years, change this into a rich compact loam. And here, as everywhere else, attention to the careful gathering of all kinds of manures is absolutely necessary to the retention of productiveness of the land; and the cottage farmer, who has just a sufficiency of land to combine stock and tillage husbandry together on a small scale, has a decided advantage by the abundant manuring he is thereby

enabled to give his holding—a rapid succession of even the most exhausting crops will be permitted. As by clearing the surface of the country becomes dryer, so also is the climate improved and the cultivation of grain crops extended ; so by the general adoption of the allotment system and spade husbandry, would drainage become more practical, and the valleys, marshes, and swamps, now looked upon as worthless, would, within a few years, be converted into the very richest arable meadow and pasture lands—permanent and valuable.

I have laid much stress upon the cultivation of vegetables by the cottage farmer, more particularly to the Swedish turnip, as tending not only to the economical sustenance of his stock, but also to the improvement of the soil upon which they are grown. The Swedish turnip bears transplanting better and more certain than a cabbage plant, with less loss to the soil upon which it is grown, and yields an infinitely greater amount of nutritive matter per acre to the grower. Under proper management, the cottage farmer, transplanting from his seed beds, need never have ground for one week, during the growing season, on which there are not seeds in it or plants upon it ; and here again he has a decided advantage over the extensive landholder ; comparatively all his attention and time being concentrated within limits he can grasp.

Again: the burning process which the land invariably undergoes in the operation of clearing off, on large holdings, however convenient and labour saving it may be, has the effect of destroying the principal part of the nutritive qualities contained within the soil. This operation on an allotment can readily be, in a great measure, dispensed with, by raking the small twigs and chips into little heaps, and carrying them off to a convenient place of deposit, thus avoiding a general burn: the spot occupied by the log-piles alone being subject to the action of fire, to which it can easily be confined by turning up the soil around them, and choosing a proper time

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for firing. The digging or hoeing which the soil undergoes in putting in the crop in this state, gives it at once a rich and abundant manuring, deepens the soil, and retains at a depth, where the roots of the crop seek it, the nourishment they require for many successive years; and above all, a free light soil—as all upon those Colonization Roads is composed of—can ill afford the adoption of the system universally practised. That the burning off of all the decomposed vegetable matter, leaves and fibres, the accumulation of ages, the manure which nature has supplied, can be otherwise than hurtful and destructive to such, none will deny; it cannot be otherwise. The result thereby necessarily is, that after a few crops are taken from it, nothing remains but an exhausted soil, for which the possessor has but himself to blame; yet he condemns the land, the unjustness of which is apparent. On the other hand, a peaty soil, or one containing a superabundance of decayed vegetable matter, will not only bear a general running burn, but will be improved thereby: the settler should, therefore, (be he a large or small holder) use a well-directed discretion in the choice of time of burning, applying the torch to his lighter soils as soon after rain as they will burn, and withholding the operation from peaty ones until the surface is completely parched, when a deep running burn may be obtained with advantage. Where due preparatory caution is exercised, fire, in such soils, can always be kept in control; but by indiscriminately giving all soils, at all seasons, a general burn, by sowing successfully exhausting crops, without giving to it any artificial assistance in the shape of manure whatever; and after sowing it down as unfit for tillage, and expect it to yield successive crops of hay, and renew and renovate itself by the action of the atmosphere and air alone, the system universally followed must be conceded by all men unreasonable and unjust.

I will now close my remarks upon this subject by stating

the well known fact that very many settlers of old standing have seriously crippled their first footsteps, by being the possessors of too much land, running over its surface carelessly and slovenly ; whereas one half well attended to, and receiving the same amount of labour, would have yielded a large return. Believing in a small farm well tilled, and a small barn well filled, I am of opinion that, for the first few years of a settler's life, ten acres will be found under the allotment system quite sufficient for his requirements, always bearing in mind that he is eligible to locate upon an hundred acres of free grant land when he finds himself capable of its management. Let the Government overcome the greatest want the emigrant, on his arrival, labours under, smooth his way, ensure his welfare, and make his path clear, by giving him a prepared home on the allotment system, and the Commissioners' future reports will not contain so many *re-occupied* lots,—nor will the statement go forth that up to the present time 45 or 50,000 of the youth of our country have been tempted by any amount of greenbacks to offer themselves as sacrifices, to be used by our most inveterate enemies, to the god of war.

H. Y. READ.

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